

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 22 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 11, and 22. Claims 8, 18, and 19 are cancelled by this reply.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on January 11, 2002 are acceptable.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-14, 19, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,771 (“Falls”) in view of Patent Application Publication No. US2001/0034733 (“Prompt”). Claims 8 and 19 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot with respect to claims 8 and 19. Further, independent claims 1, 10, 11, and 22 have been amended to clarify the term *variable usage specification*. Specifically, the following limitations have been added to each of the aforementioned independent

claims:

wherein the variable usage specification comprises a plurality states and at least one transition for an application,

wherein each of the plurality of states comprises a list of required objects and object attributes, and

wherein the at least one transition comprises business logic to transition the application from one state of the plurality of states to another state of the plurality of states.

Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0019]-[0020] and Table 1, of the instant specification. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended independent claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Falls does not teach or suggest a variable usage specification as recited in the amended independent claims. Specifically, Falls does not teach a variable usage specification *comprising a plurality of states and at least one transition for an application*. Rather, Falls only teaches a schema (84) that defines the contents of objects in a given database (*See Falls, col. 8, ll. 40-49*) without any indication that a particular object is associated with a state of the application. Clearly, a schema (84) that merely describes the contents of objects in a database is not equivalent to a variable usage specification that describes the states and transitions for an application as recited in the amended independent claims.

Moreover, even assuming *arguendo* that a schema is equivalent to the variable usage specification, Falls does not teach or suggest listing individual

attributes required for each state within the application. Rather, Falls only discloses a schema that details how individual objects within the database are associated with each other.

In addition, Falls does not teach or suggest a transition comprising business logic to transition the application from one state to another as recited in the amended independent claims. Rather, Falls, as asserted by the Examiner, only teaches changing the values of individual objects within a database (*See* Falls, col. 13 – col. 14). The Applicant respectfully asserts that functionality to merely change a value in a database is not equivalent to changing the state of an application (*i.e.*, a transition) as recited in the claims. In particular, transitioning from one state of the application to another state in the application, includes executing operations (that are embodied within the transition) to obtain the necessary information to display the state (*e.g.*, a web page) to the user. As recited in the amended claims, the necessary information for the particular state is specified in the variable usage specification.

In view of the above and the fact that the Examiner does not rely on Prompt to teach a variable usage specification, the amended independent claims are patentable over Falls and Prompt. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Falls in view of Prompt, and further in view of Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0016412 (“Barnes”). As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify the term *variable usage specification*. Dependent claims 5-7 depend on independent claim 1 and dependent claims 15-18 depend on claim 11. To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended independent claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Falls fails to teach a variable usage specification as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11. Further, the Examiner does not rely on Prompt or Barnes to teach or suggest a variable usage specification. In view of the above, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Falls, Prompt, and Barnes. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Falls in view of Prompt, and further in view of Barnes, and further in view of Patent No. 6,063,128 (“Bentley”). As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify the term *variable usage specification*. Dependent claim 9 depends on independent claim 1 and dependent claims 20 depend on claim 11. To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended independent claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Falls fails to teach a variable usage specification as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11. Further, the Examiner does not

rely on Prompt, Barnes, or Bentley to teach or suggest a variable usage specification. In view of the above, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Falls, Prompt, Barnes, and Bentley. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159.018001).

Respectfully submitted,



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